

Here are more than 40 brief statements on Prayer. These have been quoted out of a variety of publications. Next to each statement please place a number from 1 to 9 - if you agree (9) or disagree (1). If you have feelings in between, choose an appropriate number. Consider your own prayer life as you answer.

(Circle) the five statements that were most significant to you and underline the five that gave you the most trouble answering.

Mark
1-9

1. Prayer is an action of love; it is choosing to meet God and other people and to live in mutual relationship with them.
2. They who have steeped their souls in prayer can every anguish calmly bear.
3. Prayer is so much the heart of religion that the two can hardly be divorced.
4. Earnestness is the first requirement for fruitful praying.
5. We know that fear blocks prayer. Fear is a barrier erected between ourselves and God so that God's peer cannot get through to us.
6. Prayer is talking to God.
7. Pray to our God of the harvest to send folks out to reap it.
8. Prayer is the responsibility to meet others with all that I have.
9. As I used the unknown language which God has given me I felt rising in me the love, the awe, the adoration pure and uncontingent, that I had not been able to achieve in thought-out prayer.
10. The day you learn to be publicly specific in your prayers, that is the day you will discover power.
11. Not all persons can enter into the experience of praying with equal assurance, nor does it take the same form with all.
12. Prayer is another form of autosuggestion.
13. The worth of prayer depends much on the kind of God that really is.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
CLIR DHC Grant 2026-2028

<https://archive.org/details/2174.08.04>

14. One can believe intellectually in the efficacy of prayer and never do any praying.
15. Every word, every work, every labor of the Christian becomes a prayer; not in the unreal sense of a constant turning away from the task to be done, but in a real breaking through the hard 'it' to the gracious 'Thou.'
16. We do not know how to pray worthily to God.
17. The 'matter' of prayer is supplied by the world.
18. People who don't believe in miracles shouldn't pray for them.
19. I wonder whether Christian prayer, prayer in the light of the Incarnation, is not to be defined in terms of penetration through the world to God rather than of withdrawal from the world to God.
20. The power of prayer is seen in improving our character, not in changing our circumstances.
21. A burden shared is a burden halved, and the prayer of confession is a wonderfully wholesome and effective practice.
22. One's praying is affected by one's idea of God.
23. If by prayer I mean the power of words to persuade God to do things, then prayer is futile and foolish.
24. We must let God do the work. Almost always it takes longer than we think it should.
25. Sacraments...are the means of God's action, but prayer is the means of our response.
26. Prayer is not only talking to God; it is listening to God.
27. Freedom is fragile, handle with prayer.
28. To make time for prayer is to save time for work.
29. When finally we let the Holy Spirit into our innermost sanctuary, the reaction is to cry...deep soul-shaking tears, weeping rather than crying. It comes when that last barrier is down and you surrender yourself.
30. Tremendous power is made available through good people's earnest prayer.

31. I would start at the other end in teaching the discipline of prayer...not from chronos, time set by clock, but from kairos, waiting for the moment that drives us to our knees.
32. Pray for peace and grace and spiritual food, for wisdom and guidance, for all these are good. But don't forget the potatoes.
33. One's temperament makes a difference in what one may expect and receive from praying.
34. Praying while it has practical worth as yielding satisfaction, still has no solid foundation in reality.
35. In prayer, expressed or unexpressed, we shall certainly reveal our sincerity or insincerity.
36. God may say, "No!"
37. If I pray in a "tongue" my spirit is praying but my mind is inactive. I am, therefore, determined to pray with my spirit and my mind.
38. I am really praying for people, agonizing with God for them, precisely as I meet them and really give my soul to them.
39. In its working and effects, prayer is wholly subjective.
40. It is not a religious virtue to make one's private demands on God and the world and insist that the thing must be done whether or no.
41. Many people today find prayer unreal and do not pray.
42. Prayer and the common life are vitally connected.
43. It would not seem permissible to pray about such things as the weather or a drought.
44. Prayer is a high type of self-deception or self-manipulation.
45. Many earthbound mortals have departed almost completely from a serious prayer-life because they thought the essence of prayer is a medieval "way to perfection," and are benumbed by their failure to attain it.
46. An obstacle to the belief in prayer is the fact that the world now seems to be so law-abiding.

